



Blakeman Slams Hochul for Targeting Law Enforcement and Putting Officers in Harm's Way

Says Hochul's plan to retaliate against ICE agents endangers officers

Nassau County Executive and Republican candidate for Governor Bruce Blakeman today blasted Governor Kathy Hochul for her latest attack on law enforcement: using state authority to target and retaliate against federal law enforcement officers, proposing formal “recourse” against ICE agents for enforcing the law, and publicly accusing officers of “terrorizing people.” Blakeman said New York should be giving crime victims real recourse, not demonizing the men and women sworn to uphold the law.

“New York doesn’t have a law enforcement problem - it has a crime problem,” Blakeman said. “But instead of standing with the men and women who protect our communities, Governor Hochul has chosen to demonize them. When Albany attacks law enforcement, criminals hear it loud and clear, and innocent New Yorkers pay the price.”

Blakeman’s comments come after Hochul announced she will include a proposal in her 2026 agenda to give New Yorkers “a way to get recourse against” ICE agents. She also recounted confronting federal law enforcement at 26 Federal Plaza last year, telling an ICE agent, “Why do you think you are more than anybody else? Come on, you’re just trying to terrorize people.” “Let’s be clear: Governor Hochul isn’t offering recourse to crime victims. She is proposing retaliation against law enforcement,” Blakeman said. “While she attacks ICE agents for doing their jobs, violent criminals are the ones actually terrorizing New Yorkers. Hochul’s priorities are all wrong.”

Blakeman contrasted Hochul’s rhetoric with his own record in Nassau County, where his administration has worked cooperatively with federal law enforcement — including ICE — to remove dangerous criminals from local communities while respecting due process and public safety. Under Blakeman’s leadership, Nassau County has coordinated with federal authorities to

ensure that individuals accused or convicted of serious crimes are not released back onto the streets, a policy he said has helped keep neighborhoods safer and reaffirmed that law enforcement exists to protect victims, not criminals. He pointed to multiple documented cases where illegal migrants were implicated in serious crimes across New York, adding “these are real crimes, real victims, and too often ignored.”

- In a large enforcement operation, ICE arrested more than 200 illegal migrants with criminal histories in and around New York City — including those facing charges or convictions for murder, assault, arson, and sex crimes against children.
- In another federal action, nine illegal migrants with prior convictions for robbery, burglary, domestic violence, and drug trafficking were arrested in Manhattan.
- One case even involved a migrant accused of shooting an off-duty U.S. Customs and Border Protection agent in Washington Heights during a robbery attempt.

Blakeman concluded that under Hochul’s leadership, New York has repeatedly prioritized the protection of criminals over the rights of victims, fueling rising crime, disorder, and an exodus of families and businesses seeking safer communities.

“As Governor, I will restore common sense,” Blakeman said. “We will put law-abiding citizens first, back police, enforce the law, and finally give crime victims the justice they deserve.”

###